



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Director of Budget

**SUMMARY: THE FISCAL YEAR
2003 OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE
INTERIOR PROGRAMS**

The House of Representatives and the Senate adopted the Conference report on the Fiscal Year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations bill on February 13, 2003, clearing the measure for the President. The House acted by a vote of 338 to 83; Senate by a vote of 76 to 20. The President signed the bill into law on February 20, 2003.

For the Department of the Interior, the Omnibus appropriations act (P.L. 108-7) provides \$10.3 billion in current appropriations. This amount was reduced from \$10.4 billion by the 0.65% across-the-board reduction. The Omnibus act also provides \$189.0 million to repay funds borrowed from land acquisition and construction accounts in 2002 for fire suppression, emergency stabilization, and rehabilitation needs. The repayment amount is not subject to the across-the-board reduction.

The Omnibus act (not including the fire repayment) is \$5.6 million above the President's 2003 budget including the \$65.9 million across-the-board reduction. The President's 2004 budget is \$338.5 million, or 3.3%, above the Omnibus act at the across-the-board reduction level.

For programs funded in the Interior and Related Agencies Act, the Omnibus act provides current appropriations of \$9.4 billion (again not including the fire repayment). The Omnibus act is \$50.8 million below the 2003 budget request with the reduction. The 2004 budget is \$369.8 million, or 3.9%, above the Omnibus act.

For programs funded in the Energy and Water Development Act, the act provides current appropriations of \$947.6 million, \$56.4 million more than the President's 2003 budget request. The 2004 budget requests \$31.3 million less than the amount provided in the Omnibus act at the across-the-board level.

For the priorities requested in the President's budget, the Omnibus act provides the following: (Comparisons include the across-the-board reduction.)

- The Office of the Special Trustee operating account is funded at \$140.4 million. This is \$41.2 million above 2002, but \$10.7 million below the 2003 request. The Indian land consolidation program is funded at \$7.9 million, essentially the same level as the request. BIA receives an increase of \$27.0 million for trust programs, again essentially the same as the request.

- Funding for the Park Service maintenance backlog and Indian school replacement and repair is at roughly the 2003 budget request level. NPS maintenance backlog funding, \$646.0 million is \$15.1 million below the request; BIA school construction, \$124.4 million, is \$0.8 million below the request.
- The Natural Resource Challenge funding level of \$76.1 million is increased by \$17.6 million, nearly the same increase as requested in the budget.
- The Cooperative Conservation Initiative receives \$90.8 million, primarily in challenge cost share programs in the operating accounts of the land management bureaus and the FWS partners program. The budget requested \$116.2. The request for \$50 million in CCI grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund is not funded.
- Funding for the Landowner Incentive Program is \$39.7 million, \$10.3 million less than the request. This appropriation is offset by a rescission of \$40.0 million that was appropriated for the program in 2002. The statement of the managers directs that the 2003 appropriation be applied to fund grant applications submitted for the 2002 funding. The Private Stewardship program is treated similarly, with a new appropriation of \$9.9 million, offset by a \$10.0 million rescission of 2002 balances.
- The Wildland Fire program is funded at \$650.2 million, \$3.6 million below the request. As noted above, an additional \$189.0 million is provided to repay funds borrowed from other accounts for the fire program in 2002.

In general, the Omnibus act funds Interior operating programs in the same range as the President's 2003 budget request. The BLM operating accounts are \$6.7 million above the request. The FWS Resource Management account is \$7.9 million above the request. The Operation of the National Park System and Park Police accounts are \$29.7 million below the request, but \$56.6 million above 2002.

Funding for the U.S. Geological Survey under the Omnibus act is \$919.8 million, \$5.4 million above 2002 and \$51.9 million above the budget.

The act funds land acquisition for DOI agencies at \$183.1 million, \$91.0 million below 2002 and \$21.0 million below the President's request. The LWCF Stateside program for formula grants to states is \$97.4 million, \$52.6 million below the budget request, excluding the \$50.0 million requested for CCI grants, and \$46.5 million below the enacted level.

PILT is funded at \$218.6 million, \$53.6 million above the 2003 request and \$8.6 million above 2002.

The act funds pay and other uncontrollables at the level of the President's budget, which after adjusting for a 4.1% civilian employee pay raise effective in January 2003 offsets about 47% of these fixed cost increases.

The Congress did not adopt the Administration's proposal to charge individual agencies for the fully accrued costs related to retirement benefits of Civil Service Retirement

System employees and retiree health benefits for all civilian employees as the authorizing committees have not acted on the legislation. The President's 2003 budget proposal to transfer workers compensation administrative costs from the Department of Labor to the agencies was also rejected.